

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
Criminal Bail Application No. 2340 of 2023
(*Hassan Zafar v. The State*)

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| Date | Order with signature of Judges |
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For hearing of bail application

13.05.2024

Mr. Muhammad Nizar Tanoli, advocate for the applicant
Mr. Muzammil Ali Shaikh, advocate for the complainant
Mr. Mumtaz Ali Shah, Assistant Prosecutor General for the State

It is alleged that the applicant issued a cheque worth rupees thirty-one lacs in favour of complainant Saud Zaman dishonestly; it was bounced by the concerned bank when was presented there for encashment, for which the present case was registered.

The applicant having been refused pre-arrest bail by learned IIIrd-Additional Sessions Judge, Karachi, Central, has sought the same from this Court by making the instant bail application under section 498 Cr.P.C.

It is contended by learned counsel for the applicant that the applicant is innocent and has been involved in this case falsely by the complainant and cheque has been misused by the complainant, therefore, the applicant is entitled to be admitted to pre-arrest bail on point of malafide and further inquiry, which is opposed by learned Assistant PG and learned counsel for the complainant by contending that the applicant has committed the financial death of the complainant by issuing a fake cheque in his favour.

Heard arguments and perused the record.

The FIR of the incident has been lodged with a delay of about 05 months; such a delay could not be overlooked. The offence alleged against the applicant does not fall within the prohibitory clause of Section 497 Cr.P.C. The

punishment which the alleged offence entails is imprisonment for three years or a fine; if the applicant after the due trial is awarded the punishment of fine only then the imprisonment which he is likely to undergo on account of the refusal of pre-arrest bail to him would be somewhat extra. The case has finally been challaned and there is no allegation of misusing the concession of interim pre-arrest bail on the part of the applicant. In these circumstances, a case for grant of pre-arrest bail to the applicant on the point of further inquiry and malafide is made out.

Consequent to the above discussion, while relying upon the case of *Bashir Ahmed v. the State (2023 SCMR 748)*, the interim pre-arrest bail already granted to the applicant is confirmed on the same terms and conditions.

Instant bail application is disposed of accordingly.

J U D G E